

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 7, Page 175

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

*"Break now the bread of life"*

**ELW #515**

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

*"Glory to God in the Highest"*

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

**First Reading**

**Amos 7:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the LORD was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the LORD said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying,  
"Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the  
land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,  
'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,  
and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.'"

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn  
your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for  
it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son;  
but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took  
me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my  
people Israel.'"

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 85:8-13

Tone 2

<sup>1</sup>To you I lift <sup>l</sup> up my eyes, to you enthroned <sup>l</sup> in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup>**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand <sup>l</sup> of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God,  
until you show <sup>l</sup> us your mercy.**

<sup>3</sup>Have mercy upon us, O <sup>l</sup> LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough <sup>l</sup> of contempt,

<sup>4</sup>**too much of the scorn of the in- <sup>l</sup> dolent rich,  
and of the derision <sup>l</sup> of the proud.**

### Second Reading

Acts 18:1-3, 18-21, 24-28

<sup>1</sup>After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>There he found a Jew named  
Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife  
Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to  
see them, <sup>3</sup>and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and  
they worked together — by trade they were tentmakers.

<sup>18</sup>After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers  
and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had  
his hair cut, for he was under a vow. <sup>19</sup>When they reached Ephesus, he left  
them there, but first he himself went into the synagogue and had a discussion  
with the Jews. <sup>20</sup>When they asked him to stay longer, he declined; <sup>21</sup>but on  
taking leave of them, he said, "I will return to you, if God wills." Then he set sail  
from Ephesus.

<sup>24</sup>Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He  
was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. <sup>25</sup>He had been instructed in  
the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught

accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. <sup>27</sup>And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, <sup>28</sup>for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

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**Gospel**

**Mark 6:14-29**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." <sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Diligently Teaching the Faith*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A: You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries of teaching and those that serve and build up our local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other religious communities and community organizations. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, Tom Pettit, and Nelda Woods. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

FLUTE SOLO

Jordi Banitt

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving Page 180

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 181

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 182

Lamb of God Page 182

### Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen*

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

† Prayer after Communion

A: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**

*“Word of God, come down on earth”*

**ELW #510**

**Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.



**The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Richard Harrison, 2000*



***Save the Date***

- **July 18th** - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting
- **July 19th** - 2:00 PM - Special Olympics Meeting - Luther Hall
- **July 22nd** - 12:00 PM - Wynnton Neighborhood Network Board Meeting
- **July 23rd** - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Bible Study
- **July 24-26th** - 5:45-7:30 PM - VBS - Baptismal Tai-Chi

**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024**

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56



*“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet,  
it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of  
me.” —Martin Luther*

**July 7 2024**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 60  
(IN-PERSON— 50 , YOUTUBE - 10)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 7,655.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 360.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,215.00</b>

**Serving July 14, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates, Donna Doughty, Geri Regnier
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

**Serving July 21, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks/Cecil McGouirk



# *Pray Without Ceasing*



*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*  
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Armed Forces,  
their families,  
and victims of war  
Persecuted Christians  
The ministries of  
St. Matthew  
Bishop Kevin  
Strickland  
Acting Bishop  
Jill Henning  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Pastor Taylor Burton  
Edwards  
Laura Alexander  
Carol Bingemann  
Dave Bonaker  
Pat Bonaker  
Betty Davidson  
Ken Hoag  
Myrna Hoag  
Bennie Jackson  
Mairetha Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Traudel Mosely  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Carla Stickles  
Albert VanHousen II

Harold & Patti Vinson  
Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright  
Judy Bultman  
George Capps  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Penny Davis & Family  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra Henderson  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Emma Kump  
Boyd Lester  
Laura Lester  
Valerie Karol Louder  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Brady Meeks  
Tim Moore  
Gary Nearhoof  
Louie Niederhammer  
Kimberly O'Malley  
Michael Owen  
Angela Paul

Vincent Pawlowski  
Beth Price  
Mark Purushotham  
Dwight Redmond  
Tiffany Richardson  
Dayna Ryan  
Shirley Scott  
Ricky Skinner  
Betty Townsend  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Maui  
Morocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

Days Inn  
Enterprise  
Comfort Inn  
The Cell Plug  
Plaza Furniture  
Guthrie's

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for August newsletter is July 20.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to St. Matthew:** Jesus Christ offers himself to all. May you be blessed as we celebrate God's love for us. All the baptized are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table. The wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday.

**We invite you to join our congregation if you have not yet found a church home.** We are people of God that share a living, daring, confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person, questions, complexities and all. Join us, as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**Nursery:** St. Matthew provides nursery service for children ages 6 and younger. All children are welcome to attend worship with their families. If a child needs a break during the service, they may sit with a parent/guardian in the Narthex.

## **Mission Outreach Opportunities:**

### **Mission Focus:**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
|                            | Wynnton Neighborhood Network   |
| • Lion's Club:             | Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones  |
| • Family House of West GA: | Pop tabs   |
| • Flags to Retire:         | Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need.                           |
| • St. Anne's:              | Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items |
| • Safe House               | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)   |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

**Growing in Grace:** This group is taking a break during the summer. We will let you know when it will resume.

**Remembrance Gathering:** This group is taking a break during the summer. The group will resume meeting September 10, 2024 at 3:00 in the Church House.



Use the QR code to the left to register your child for Baptismal Tai-Chi VBS!

# Wynnton Neighborhood Network

## June/July Mission Focus

We are collecting for WNN the following items:

- Canned Veggies: Sweet peas, corn, carrots, green beans, black beans
- Canned Meat: Chicken, ham, tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tomato products
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereals
- Monetary donations

Please place items in labeled basket in the Narthex.



**VACATION**  
**BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**Baptismal Tai-Chi**  
**JULY**  
**24-26**  
**5:45-7:30 PM**

**VBS SERVICE PROJECT**  
PROVIDING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR  
WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK TO HELP  
OUR NEIGHBORS IN OUR COMMUNITY.  
BRING AN ITEM EACH NIGHT TO FILL OUR WAGON.

**St Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
4026 Macon Road  
Columbus, GA 31907**

The poster features a light blue background with colorful streamers at the top. It includes illustrations of children in various activities: a boy in a blue martial arts uniform, a girl in a pink top meditating, a boy in a red shirt, a girl in a yellow shirt, and a boy in a green shirt. The text is in large, bold, colorful letters.

# **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement**



Reach in to grow in Christ  
Reach up to worship God  
Reach out to welcome and witness

## **ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:00-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: [twbe@liturgyfolks.com](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Office email: [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewlutheranchurch4457/streams>

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Ellen Hoag, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director